



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,003	09/09/2003	Douglas S. Forrer	PTH-20404/08	2277
25006	7590	08/03/2004	EXAMINER	
GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, PC 280 N OLD WOODARD AVE SUITE 400 BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009			SINGH, SUNIL	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3673		
DATE MAILED: 08/03/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/658,003	FORRER, DOUGLAS S.
	Examiner Sunil Singh	Art Unit 3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/9/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 21-25 are objected to because of the following informalities: claims 21-25 their preambles do not commesurate with the preamble of claim 20 from which they directly depend from. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heenan (US 3332327) in view of Coderre et al. (US 6325515).

Heenan discloses a reflective pavement marker (see Fig. 1) comprising a shell (12) having at least one side wall having a reflective portion, wherein said shell forms an interior cavity, said reflective portion having an inner surface partially defining said cavity; a reflective coating (70) covering said inner surface of said reflective portion; and a filler material (14) disposed within the interior cavity of said shell. The shell includes a top wall, side wall and reflective end wall having the reflective portion formed therein

integrally. The reflective portion includes a plurality of integrally formed cube-shaped members arranged in a grid pattern (see col. 1 line 20). The reflective coating is a metal material (see col. 5 line 65).

It should be noted that Heenan clearly teaches that his shell is formed methyl methacrylate (see col. 4 line 40+) and thus the specific limitations of the tensile strength being "greater than 9,000 psi" and the ratio of tensile strength to flexural modulus of between 0.021-0.050:1 are inherently met. The optical transmittance greater than 85% is also met. **The examiner would like to direct applicant to "Acrylic (Polymethyl-Methacrylate) Specifications" wherein the above specifications are inherently met.**

Heenan discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Heenan lacks a bonding coating covering at least said reflective coating, wherein the bonding coating is a bonding primer such as an acrylic latex primer or a water based primer. Coderre et al. teaches a reflective marker having a bonding coating (28) covering at least the reflective coating (32) which covers cube corner reflective means (32), wherein the bonding coating is a bonding primer (see col. 3 line 56+). It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Heenan to include the bonding coating as taught by Coderre et al. so as to cover the reflective coating in order to protect the reflective coating from corrosion thus lengthening the life of the reflective marker.

With regards to claims 20-25, the recited method steps are considered to be obvious in view of the combination as described above.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 13 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The examiner would like to direct applicant to Heenan where Heenan clearly teaches that his shell is formed methyl methacrylate (see col. 4 line 40+) and thus the specific limitations of the tensile strength being "greater than 9,000 psi" and the ratio of tensile strength to flexural modulus of between 0.021-0.050:1 are inherently met as evidenced by article "**Acrylic (Polymethyl-Methacrylate) Specifications**". The optical transmittance greater than 85% is also met as evidenced by article "**Acrylic (Polymethyl-Methacrylate) Specifications**".

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunil Singh whose telephone number is (703) 308-4024. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on (703) 308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3673

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sunil Singh



Patent Examiner

Art Unit 3673

SS
SS
7/30/04